2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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Implementation of article VI and paragraph 4 (c) of the 1995 Decision on "Principles and Objectives for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament"

Report submitted by Ukraine

2004 marked the 10th anniversary of Ukraine's accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).

In 1990 in the Declaration on State Sovereignty Ukraine proclaimed its intention to keep to the three non-nuclear principles set out in article II of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons — not to receive, manufacture or otherwise acquire nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. Since that time Ukraine has consistently followed a course towards nuclear-weapon-free status. One of the first significant steps in this direction was the signature of the Lisbon Protocol to the Treaty on Strategic Offensive Arms (START I) (May 1992), according to which Ukraine assumed the obligations of the former Soviet Union under the aforementioned Treaty and pledged to accede to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as a non-nuclear-weapon State.

After Ukraine acceded to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons on 5 December 1994 and the START I Treaty entered into force, Ukraine began practical implementation of its obligations under the mentioned treaties.

By 5 December 2001 Ukraine had eliminated all deployed strategic offensive arms, as required by the provisions of article II of the START I Treaty. These included:

- 130 silos for SS-19 intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) and 46 silos for SS-24 ICBMs with multiple independently targetable nuclear warheads (SS-19 and SS-24 were capable of carrying 6 and 10 warheads respectively);
- 44 heavy bombers (Tu-160 — 19 units, Tu-95MC — 25 units, each type equipped for 8 long-range nuclear air-launched cruise missiles.

From 1992 to 1996 all tactical nuclear warheads and more than 1,600 strategic nuclear warheads were transferred from Ukraine to the Russian Federation. By October 2001 all those warheads were eliminated at the relevant facilities of the Russian Federation under the monitoring of Ukrainian representatives.

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Ukraine ensured reduction of both strategic and non-strategic nuclear weapons inherited from the former Soviet Union, having thus made an immeasurable contribution to the cause of practical nuclear disarmament.

As of today, Ukraine continues to carry out its START I obligations with regard to the non-deployed ICBMs. This process provides for completing a highly challenging task — disposition of the solid propellant from the SS-24 ICBM loaded motor cases.

Nowadays, there are 5,000 tons of the solid propellant contained in the 163 loaded motor cases of 54.5 SS-24 ICBMs at the Pavlograd Mechanical Plant and the Pavlograd Chemical Plant (Ukraine), which is to be disposed of in a safe and environmentally compliant manner.

Ukraine has embarked upon the construction of the propellant disposal facility at the Pavlograd Chemical Plant at the expense of its own State budget resources. However, the process of destroying enormous stocks of the solid propellant in Ukraine is a costly one. Therefore, despite Ukraine's efforts, it may not be able to complete the propellant disposal process by 5 December 2009 (START I expiration date), unless other States provide financial assistance to Ukraine.